

Message Text

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64
ACTION NEA-16

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR CY
SUBJ: AHRAM EDITORIAL COMMENT ON ASSASSINATION
OF AMBASSADOR DAVIES

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
01. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AL-AHRAM MAIN EDITORIAL

AUG 21 DEALING WITH ASSASSINATION OF AMBASSADOR
DAVIES:

2. QUOTE. THE MURDER OF THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN
CYPRUS IS A SIGNIFICANT EVENT. IT CANNOT BE ATTRIBUTED
MERELY TO IRRESPONSIBLE GROUPS OF EOKA DEMONSTRATORS..
IT IS AN EXPRESSION OF INFLAMED, EXPLOSIVE FEELINGS.; IT
REFLECTS THE FAILURE UNTIL NOW TO FIND A SATISFACTORY SOLUT-

ION TO THE CRISIS. IT SHOWS THE FEELING OF AN
OUTSTANDING SEGMENT OF THE CYPRIOT PEOPLE AS REGARDS
THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE CONTINUOUS
DETERIORATION OF THE SITUATION.

3. EGYPT CANNOT VIEW THE STEADILY DETERIORATING CYPRIOT
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CRISIS AS THOUGH IT WERE SEPARATE FROM THE CURRENT
EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS.
THE UNITED STATES EFFORTS TO RESTORE PEACE TO THE AREA
ARE INDIVISIBLE. THEY NECESSITATE A CERTAIN
CONDUCT WHICH ALL PARTIES ACCEPT AND RECOGNIZE AS
EFFORTS THAT REALLY SEEK TO ACHIEVE THE DECLARED
INTENTIONS.

4. EGYPT CONDEMNS TERRORIST ACTS BUT IT CANNOT IGNORE
THE MOTIVES BEHIND THEM. IT BELIEVES THAT SINCERE EFFORTS
FOR A SETTLEMENT
THAT WOULD FULFILL THE LEGITIMATE
ASPIRATIONS OF ALL PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE ARE THE
ONLY WAY TO UPROOT THE
CAUSES OF TERRORISM. UNQUOTE

5. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE:
COMMENT: ABOVE EDITORIAL, WHICH CONTRASTS SHARPLY
WITH OFFICIAL EGYPTIAN EXPRESSIONS OF CONDOLENCE TO US
ON AMBASSADOR DAVIES' DEATH, REFLECTS TWO EGYPTIAN LINES
OF THOUGHT, WHICH HAVE OF LATE INCREASINGLY SURFACED IN
PRIVATE CONVERSATION. FIRST, A DEEPLY HELD CONVICTION
THAT USG SHOULD DO MORE TO HALT CYPRUS FIGHTING.
EGYPTIANS, AS FELLOW MUSLIMS, ARE RELUCTANT TACKLE
TURKS DIRECTLY ON THIS AND HABITUALLY PREFER BURDEN AND
BLAME TO BE CARRIED BY OTHERS. SECOND, A LATENT
IMPATIENCE WITH THE SLOW PACE OF ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT
TALKS AND A NAGGING CONCERN THAT USG COVERTLY ENDORSES
ISRAELI MILITANCY. THESE SENTIMENTS HAVE LONG BEEN
HARBORED BY LEFT-WING INTELLECTUALS OF AL AHRAM
ESTABLISHMENT, BUT HAVE BEEN PUBLICLY MUTED SINCE
HAYKAL'S DEPARTURE AND REORGANIZATION OF AHRAM
MANAGEMENT. THESE ELEMENTS APPEAR TO HAVE SEIZED
UPON CYPRUS INCIDENT TO VENT THEIR CONCERNs. ALTHOUGH
VOLUNTARY CENSORSHIP IS NOW THE RULE, WE CAN HARLDY
BELIEVE THAT THE ABOVE EDITORIAL WAS PUBLISHED
WITHOUT AT LEAST TACIT CONURRENCE OF MININFO
ABDUL MAGD, AS AN OBLIQUE REMAINDER THAT EGYPTIANS
WANT USG TO TAKE PRINCIPAL ROLE IN ANY AND ALL ME
PEACE EFFORTS.
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